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Feb. 23, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

EPFD responds to Condition 2 Fire

Firefighters respond to Condition 2 fire at 134 N. Clark Dr.

El Paso, Texas – At approximately 2:44 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 22, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to a condition 2 fire on 134 N. Clark Dr. when residents saw smoke and called 911. Upon arriving on the scene at 2:47 p.m., crews found heavy smoke coming from one of the apartments at a complex. Although that particular apartment was empty, crews began to evacuate about 20 other units while they attacked the fire.

Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control at 2:58 p.m. and contain it to approximately 20% of the initial apartment unit, estimated at \$50,000 of damage. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

There were no injuries to residents or fire personnel. A total of 10 units and 24 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police, Texas Gas Service, El Paso Electric and the American Red Cross assisted in the incident.

En route to the fire, one EPFD unit was hit by a vehicle that didn't yield. The three fire personnel and two civilians in the two vehicles were treated and transported to University Medical Center with non-critical injuries. The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public that it's Texas State law to always yield the right-of-way to all emergency vehicles which are sounding a siren or flashing a red light. The law states a driver must either slowdown 20 miles per hour below the speed limit or vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle that has emergency lights activated if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction. (If the speed limit is below 25 mph, the driver must slow down to 5 mph.) Drivers should only move over if they can safely and legally do so; otherwise, they should slow down.

"Today's more modern vehicles are quite sound proof to external noise," Deputy Chief Christopher Celaya said. "Add the music and the air conditioner running, and hearing the siren can be problematic. That's why it's important for drivers to always be aware of their surroundings."

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Media Contact: Carlos A. Briano
Fire Public Information Officer
Cell # (915) 820-9712